

Sharon Township

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—Township Trustees—

Chair **Laura A. Kunze** Vice-Chair **John H. Oberle** **Lindsay S. Duffey**

Anthony E. Palmer, Jr., Fiscal Officer

Sharon Township Board of Trustees

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Police Department

Police/Fire Emergency

911

Police non-Emergency

614-525-2125

police@sharontwp.us

Police Chief

Jeffrey Tuchfarber
614-885-5115

Road Superintendent

Thomas A. Kayati
614-885-5933

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Board of Trustees Regular Meetings

@ 6:30 p.m.

First and Third Wednesdays of each month

*Check website for updates
and more information*

www.sharontwp.us

Meet the new Police Chief: Jeff Tuchfarber

The Sharon Township Trustees recently promoted Lieutenant Jeff Tuchfarber to Chief of Police.

My name is Jeff Tuchfarber and I am honored to be your Chief of Police for Sharon Township. I began my career with the Hamilton County Sheriffs' Department in 1990. In 1992 I met my wife who resided in Columbus. We decided to make Columbus our home. After searching for some time, I was able to find a position with Sharon Township as a part-time constable in September 1994. I have moved up through the ranks to being named your Chief of Police on April 7th, 2021.

When I came to Sharon Township people would say, "You need to find another job, Sharon Township won't be around in another two years." In earlier years, I had opportunities to leave Sharon Township for other police jobs in the area. Each time I turned down those opportunities because of the residents I have served the last 27 years. My wife would always ask me, "Are you happy at Sharon Township?" My answer - "Yes!" The biggest reason for this was the continuous community support for the police department. In a community this size, you are able to truly do community policing. You know your residents and they know you. You know when things just don't seem right because you're out here every day working and talking to residents.

The Constables of Sharon Township and I will continue to serve our residents in the way you have been accustomed to being served. Chief

The summer holidays are upon us, so have a have a happy and safe Memorial Day and Fourth of July!

Schwind and our team have built this department to where it is today professionally and I will strive to make sure this professionalism continues. Happy retirement, Chief Schwind!

I am truly honored to have been named your Chief of Police. I plan to finish my career in this position and will always be here to serve the residents of Sharon Township to the best of my abilities.

Water District Update

The Mount Air neighborhood in Sharon Township is making significant progress on the new water lines and upcoming connection to DelCo Water. This project was initiated in 2015 by residents in that area. Most of the homes at that time were serviced by a community well system that had been built and progressively expanded over the past 60 years as individual wells failed. This private well system was built, run and maintained by residents and monitored by the OhioEPA for compliance.

In 2015 the incidences of age-related infrastructure breaks were increasing, repair costs and frequency of system outages became alarming. Several of the homes still on individual wells were also reaching out to the residents to explore connection but opted to wait because the system was struggling. Residents started exploring options for updating the system, including rebuilding it themselves or centralized connection options via Aqua, DelCo, Franklin County or City of Columbus.

The next 6 years included numerous discussions and advocacy from Sharon Township trustees, Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce, former State Rep Mike Duffey, State Senator Stephanie Kunze, and the OhioEPA. The City of Columbus initially blocked any avenue to obtain water without annexation and cost to connect to their nearest system was over 1 million dollars more than the other closer options. Residents did not want to lose their valuable township services so continued to push back. Rebuilding the existing system was also cost prohibitive and capital funding opportunities did not exist for this option. Eventually Columbus cleared the way for the most

cost-effective and environmentally sound option, which was to rebuild the infrastructure and connect to DelCo Water.

Sharon Township formed a ORC6119 Water District so that entity could enter into a contract with DelCo for the project and apply for public funding. The Mount Air Water District was awarded a 30 year zero interest loan for the project from OhioEPA, which will be paid entirely by the residents of the district.

This is a real success story for the entire township. Had circumstances been different, residents of Mount Air and surrounding areas may have had to annex to City of Columbus, resulting in significant loss of revenue for the township. Residents of this area would have lost the services of our police and roads departments and the access we enjoy with our township leadership. Properties could have been without water for years which would have devalued properties, rendered them unsaleable and hurt property values in nearby neighborhoods.

It is our hope that the Mount Air Water District can be a resource that other parts of Sharon Township and other unincorporated areas within Franklin County can utilize the “preserve the township way of life” if and when needed. There are numerous areas of the township that have functioning wells and septic systems. We need to proactively address other strategies to preserve properties within the township and ensure that water and sewer are not automatic annexations to a neighboring municipality IF the existing well and septic systems become no longer viable or for new builds. While we don’t want to “fix what ain’t broke” we know that it can take years to address water and sewer connection options once a known problem exists.

From Your Police Department...

Spring and summer are finally upon us. With more things opening, we will begin vacationing again. If you are planning on leaving for an extended period of time, make sure to take advantage of our Vacation House Watch Program. If you have internet access log onto our website at www.Sharontwp.us and proceed to the Police Department tab and complete the fillable form

and submit. If you have no internet access call the Administrative office at 614-885-5115 or you may call the Dispatch Center at 614-525-2125 and ask for a cruiser to stop by your residence or take the information over the phone.

Remember to close windows when you leave: Also with the warming temperatures, residents will be opening those windows and doors to get some of that fresh air into our homes. Remember when you leave your home to make sure you secure those windows and doors to keep someone from entering your home. Burglars are always looking for opportunities to enter a home, let's not give them those opportunities.

Watch for children playing: Schools will be letting out for the summer soon. Kids will be out riding bikes or playing ball in our neighborhood streets. Be aware of these things when driving through our neighborhoods.

Look out for Motorcycles: May is Motorcycle Awareness month. Many residents will be getting out on their motorcycles to enjoy the warmer weather – be alert and share the roads with our fellow motorists!

National Night Out – August 3rd: August 3rd is National Night Out. **National Night Out** is held annually on the first Tuesday in August. **National Night Out** is a community-driven event where neighbors get to know each other and share their concerns, strategies, and ideas for safer communities. It also strengthens neighborhood spirit and sends a message to criminals, letting them know neighborhoods are organized and watching. Turn on your porch lights and get out and talk with your neighbors. Your constables will be out patrolling the neighborhoods and stopping to talk with residents.

PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION

Why Your Actions Matter

Individuals are more important than ever in improving and preserving our streams for wildlife, recreation, drinking water, quality of life, and as a legacy for our children. How do our actions influence water quality? Rainwater that runs off

hard surfaces including roads, parking lots, roofs, sidewalks, and driveways is piped directly to streams without cleaning or filtering. This runoff carries everything picked up along its path including litter, chemicals, and excess nutrients. Even clean runoff causes problems in Franklin County because of water entering streams and rivers after a rain. The extra runoff from hard surfaces causes streambank erosion, property loss, and even flooding. These simple tips can help keep our streams and rivers healthy for all of us.

What We Can Do...

In the Yard

Plant grass or ground cover in areas of bare soil. Rain can carry large amounts of soil to a storm drain or stream even on gentle slopes. Eroded soil is the major pollutant in Ohio's rivers. Remove grass clippings and leaves from street gutters and storm drains. Don't toss clippings down a stream bank or in a ditch. As organic material decomposes in streams, it decreases the oxygen necessary for aquatic life. Utilize fertilizers and pesticides responsibly, or consider alternatives. When using pesticides and fertilizers, read the labels and do your research to ensure proper application and timing. Apply chemicals in dry weather and water sparingly to keep them in your yard. Sweep from sidewalks and driveways back into the yard. Bag pet waste and throw it in the trash. It contains nitrogen, phosphorous, and harmful bacteria and parasites which pollute our streams. Never hose it down a storm drain. Direct downspouts to a rain barrel or a rain garden instead of toward driveways, streets, or storm drains. For information on backyard conservation, visit www.franklinswcd.org. Plant native trees, shrubs, and perennials. Trees soak up hundreds of gallons of rainwater and native plants support pollinators and other wildlife. Native plants are better adapted to our climate and require fewer fertilizers and pesticides.

In the Garage

Wash your car on grass or gravel, or use commercial car washes. Commercial washes are required to recycle water and send it to a wastewater treatment plant. Water from washing your car carries soap, dirt, and grease down the

storm drain to the nearest stream. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean parking areas. Use kitty litter to soak up auto leaks or chemical spills, then sweep up and double bag before putting it in the trash. Recycle used oil. Advance Auto Parts, AutoZone, Napa, and Jiffy Lube will accept the amount from one oil change if it is placed in a container with a lid.

Around the House

Treat oil-based paint, thinners, solvents and polishes as household hazardous waste. Latex paint is water-based, so rinse brushes in a sink. Allow extra latex paint to dry and throw the paint can in the trash. Store all chemicals in a dry place protected from the rain. Household hazardous waste must be properly disposed of to prevent pollution. For collection dates and locations call (614) 871-5100 or visit www.swaco.org. Decide if and when you need heavy-duty cleaning power. Some household cleaners are difficult for wastewater treatment plants to remove. Phosphates in some dishwasher soaps and the anti-bacterial ingredient triclosan are examples. For 'green cleaning' tips visit Backyard Conservation at www.franklinswcd.org. Maintain your aerator or septic system. Put aside a monthly "fee" so that the pumping that is necessary every three to five years will be covered. For more information, visit Franklin County Public Health at www.myfcph.org/npdes.php

Reporting Problems

If you see someone putting anything down a storm drain or directly into a stream or river, obtain a license plate number or address and report it to It's a Crime at (614) 871-5322 or www.itsacrime.org. Chemical and petroleum spills: call the Ohio EPA 24-hour hotline, (800) 282-9378. Sewage-related pollution: call the Franklin County Public Health 24-hour hotline, (614) 525-3965 or e-mail failingHSTS@franklincountyohio.gov. Agriculture or manure-related pollution: call Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District at (614) 486-9613, or use the "Contact Us" tab at www.franklinswcd.org. You can also contact Franklin Soil and Water about any other non-emergency pollution and we will inform the

proper agency. Or contact the Sharon Township Road Department at 614 885-5933 Ext. 402



Ready for your community to go green? Residents can earn up to \$50 for their yard by participating in the online course and quiz, or attending a virtual Zoom class. This program combines stormwater education with on-the-ground conservation implementation, and residents who participate leave with a concrete understanding, as well as a plan of action and rebate, for how they can lessen their impact on local waterways!

<https://www.franklinswcd.org/community-backyards-program>



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